

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

Minnesota Voters Alliance, Ronald Moey,  
Marissa Skaja, Charles R. Halverson, Blair  
L. Johnson,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

City of Minneapolis,

Defendant

Case No.: 20-cv-02049

**ORDER**

The Plaintiffs Minnesota Voters Alliance, Ronald Moey, Marissa Skaja, Charles R. Halverson and Blair L. Johnson, moved for a temporary restraining order regarding a private federal elections grant of \$3 million accepted by the Defendant City of Minneapolis. The Minnesota Voters Alliance alleged that the public-private relationship between the grantor, Center for Tech and Civic Life, and Minneapolis was impermissible under the Election Clause and Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution and preempted under federal and state election laws. After a hearing on the matter based upon all submissions of counsel and oral argument, the Court GRANTS the temporary restraining order.

**DISCUSSION**

The Plaintiffs Minnesota Voters Alliance, Ronald Moey, Marissa Skaja, Charles R. Halverson and Blair L. Johnson (hereafter “Plaintiffs”) will face irreparable harm if a

Temporary Restraining Order is not issued because the City of Minneapolis accepted and used CTCL's private federal election grant to unconstitutionally interfere with the legally-authorized, uniform and fair November 3 election—which federal law requires.

There is a substantial probability that the Plaintiffs will succeed on their challenge because the City of Minneapolis has acted ultra vires, without legal authority to accept a private grant preempted by federal and state law. Federal elections are a subject area where public-private partnerships are constitutionally impermissible.

The harm to the City of Minneapolis is minimal if relief is granted because the state and federal government have provided ample funds to run the 2020 general election and the balance of equities typically favors the constitutionally-protected freedom of expression.

Further, under the circumstances, the public interest is served by the protection of Plaintiffs constitutional rights.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

1. A temporary restraining order is immediately granted and the City of Minneapolis is enjoined from using any moneys of the Center for Tech and Civic Life's \$3 million grant;
2. If any moneys have been used prior to the issuance of this Court's injunctive relief, Minneapolis is to report to this Court and Plaintiffs' counsel the amount used and specifically identify for what purpose each expenditure was used for, and the date of that expenditure within 10 days of the date of this Order;
3. Minneapolis will hold the \$3 million Center for Tech and Civic Life grant or any amount not expended of that grant in an interest bearing escrow account until fu further

order of this Court, and report to the Court and counsel that these moneys are in an escrow account as directed.

Dated: September 24, 2020.

---

The Honorable Michael J. Davis  
United States District Court Judge